

Message

**From:** This Week @ EPA [epanews@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 3/15/2018 2:45:26 PM  
**To:** This Week @ EPA [epanews@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** This Week @ EPA - April 9, 2018



## Senior Leadership Message

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### Hot Topics

#### Midterm Evaluation Final Determination for cars and light trucks

Last week, Administrator Pruitt signed the Midterm Evaluation Final Determination for greenhouse gas (GHG) standards for cars and light trucks for model years 2022-2025. This determination finds that the current standards are not appropriate and should be revised. EPA will begin a joint process with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to develop a notice and comment rulemaking to set more appropriate GHG emissions standards and Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards.

For more information, please [read the press release](#).



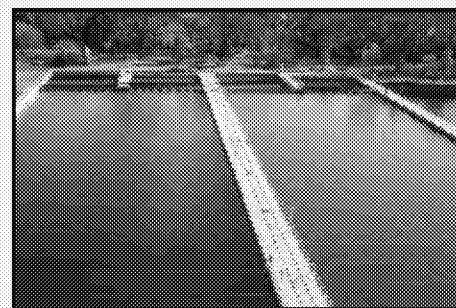
#### New Funding for Water Infrastructure Projects

Last Wednesday, EPA announced the availability of funding that could provide as much as \$5.5 billion in loans, which could finance over \$11 billion in water infrastructure projects through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program. This comes on the heels of a budget increase for the program in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, which more than doubled the funding for 2018.

This funding will spark new investments to repair our nation's water infrastructure. WIFIA credit assistance can be used for a wide range of projects, including:

- Drinking water treatment and distribution projects.
- Wastewater conveyance and treatment projects.
- Enhanced energy efficiency projects at drinking water and wastewater facilities.
- Desalination, aquifer recharge, alternative water supply, and water recycling project.
- Drought prevention, reduction, or mitigation projects.

For more information, please see the [WIFIA website](#).



**EPA announces 2018 ENERGY STAR® Partners of the Year**

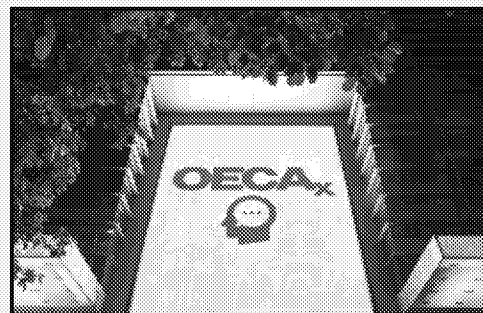
EPA and the Department of Energy are honoring 163 ENERGY STAR partners – including Fortune 500 companies, schools, hospitals, retailers, manufacturers, home builders, and commercial building owners and operators – for their outstanding contributions to public health and the environment. During a ceremony scheduled for April 20, these enterprises will be named ENERGY STAR Partners of the Year for demonstrating national leadership in cost-saving energy efficient solutions. Recipients of the 2018 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Award come from 35 states and include: Best Buy, Eastman Chemical, Energy Inspectors, Inc., Entergy Mississippi, Food Lion, and GE Lighting.

ENERGY STAR is the government-backed symbol for energy efficiency, providing simple, credible, and unbiased information that consumers and businesses rely on to make well-informed decisions.

For more information, please [read the press release](#).



**Bi-weekly brown bags hosted by Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance**



Participate in "OECAX Talks," a bi-weekly forum organized by Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) staff and managers to support a culture of curiosity, connection, and collaboration at EPA. These lunch hour talks, which began close to two years ago in OECA's Office of Compliance, enable employees of all levels to explore topics outside of their normal work areas, gain insight into intra-agency business, create new connections with co-workers, and be energized by new knowledge and ideas. Presentations have covered topics such as emotional intelligence, plain writing, enforcement, and environmental economics.

As the name suggests, the series is inspired by the TEDx model, and similarly, is meant to be fun and informative. The structure of each OECAX talk is up to the speaker, but always allows time at the end of each talk for questions and answers and open discussion.

Employees can participate in OECAX Talks by coming in person to William Jefferson Clinton South Room 6045 in DC or remotely via Adobe Connect.

The next talk is scheduled for April 18 from 12-1 p.m. EDT and will cover Deepwater Horizon.

For more information about OECAX Talks and to see the full schedule of upcoming talks, please visit the [OECAX Talks SharePoint site](#).

### **Laboratory safety: Focus on chemical hazards**



A laboratory environment can potentially expose workers to chemical and/or biological hazards, among other hazards. Always practice proper handling, storage, and engineering controls when using laboratory chemicals. For example:

- Ensure all chemicals are labeled properly to indicate their contents.
- Read all [Safety Data Sheets](#) for any chemicals or mixtures you are using.
- Be sure to use appropriate personal protective equipment for the chemicals that you are using.
- Use laboratory fume hoods, glove boxes, and/or other engineering controls available.
- Know the chemical and/or biological hazards associated with chemicals in your laboratory (e.g., irritants that can damage the eyes).
- Attend your annual laboratory safety training.
- Keep only the necessary amount of chemicals in your inventory.
- Store incompatible chemicals separately (e.g., acids and bases, oxidizers and flammables).
- Keep flammable chemicals, solvents, and aerosols in fireproof cabinets.
- Ensure that eyewashes and fire extinguishers are not blocked and are fully operational.
- Be sure of the integrity of compressed gas cylinders - secure them in place and handle with care.
- Store glassware and compressed gas cylinders safely and inspect them for cracks or contamination before use.
- Never pick up broken glassware - sweep it up.
- Handle and dispose of waste chemicals and sharps safely.
- Keep spill containment materials readily accessible and report chemical spills to your [Safety, Health, and Environmental Management Program \(SHEMP\) manager](#).

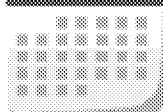
Report work-related injuries, illnesses, or near misses to your supervisor and [SHEMP manager](#), or call the EPA Injury and Illness Reporting Hotline at 877-301-SAFE (7233). For more information, visit the EPA intranet's [Laboratory Safety site](#).

## ELMS Update

**ELMS UPDATE – AWAITING CONTENT FROM KEVIN DEBELL**

### Key Dates

#### EPA Calendar



Click on each event below to get more details. Click on the "Add to Calendar" button to add an event to your Outlook calendar.

If you see a log-in screen, please click on your EPA email, or if prompted, enter your email

and network password.

#### This week:

**April 12:** [Federal inter-agency Holocaust remembrance event – Bearing Witness: A Holocaust Survivor on Schindler's List](#)

Halina Silber [ADD TO CALENDAR](#)

**April 12:** [The First 60 Days: Benefits Information for New Federal Employees webinar](#) [REGISTER NOW!](#)

#### Coming soon:

**April 17:** [Introduction to PDF Accessibility webinar](#)

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

**April 17:** [What's Your Long Term Care IQ? webinar](#)

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

### Video Spotlight

#### [Gulf Guardian Award: First Place EJ/Cultural Diversity – Isle de Jean Charles Tribal Resettlement](#)

The Isle de Jean Charles Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw have recognized the need to resettle for the past 16 years and spent the past two years in an intensive planning process. The Isle de Jean Charles Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw is in the process of resettling their community further inland as a result of tremendous land loss. The resettlement was awarded a sizeable grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that will cover a portion of the needed cost. Once completed, the resettlement will bring together the now scattered tribal population while also restoring the ecosystem at the new site. The resettlement will create a model for other at-risk coastal communities needing to consider moving inland.



**April 19:** Preparing to Care: For Ourselves and Our Loved Ones webinar [REGISTER NOW!](#)

**April 26:** Retirement: Are You Prepared? webinar

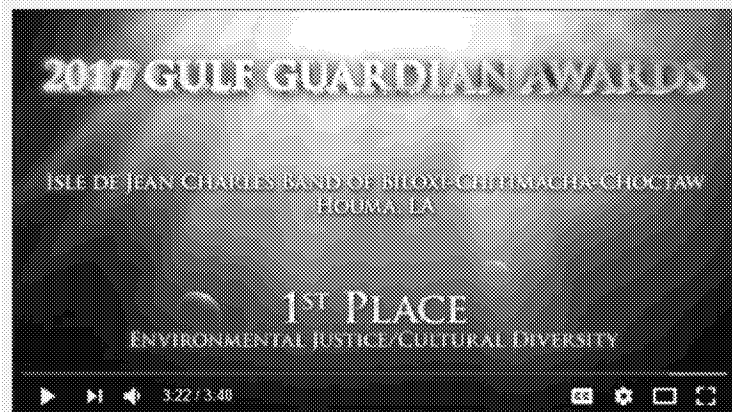
[REGISTER NOW!](#)

**May 10:** Federal Benefits as a New Employee, and the Years that Follow webinar [REGISTER NOW!](#)

**May 15:** Preparing for Financial Emergencies webinar

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

**May 31:** Protecting Your Retirement for Singles and Self Plus One Individuals webinar [REGISTER NOW!](#)



## Health & Wellness

**Announcing the 2018 Walk to Wellness**

## IT Corner

**OEI launches new IT GreenPages website to better serve employees**

In recognition of National Physical Fitness and Sports

The Office of Environmental Information (OEI) launches a new

Month, EPA is hosting the 2018 Walk to Wellness event on Wednesday, May 2. The sixth annual event will occur agency-wide with many EPA locations organizing one- to two-mile walks and other wellness-related activities. To register for the event, please visit the [Walk to Wellness site](#). Participants will have the opportunity to join their colleagues in a fun and informative event that promotes the benefits of regular physical activity. Please note that some local events may occur on another date.

In addition to disease prevention and weight control, exercising regularly improves mood, enhances the ability to perform daily activities, increases workplace productivity, and lengthens life expectancy.

Be on the lookout for another year of successful exercise events across the agency!

For more information about the 2018 Walk to Wellness at your location, please visit the [Walk to Wellness site](#) on the EPA intranet or contact your [wellness coordinator](#).

and easy to navigate SharePoint site today. The [IT GreenPages](#) is a comprehensive and searchable directory of OEI programs, tools, and services. The directory includes web links, as well as points of contact for each OEI service – a personal touch to help employees get in contact with the right subject matter experts.

To access IT GreenPages, simply click the new Quick Link icon on the [One EPA Workplace](#) home page. The icon will also be accessible via regional and program office home pages that use the EPA Quick Links feature.

You may notice that we removed the Concur icon from Quick Links. Employees who are accustomed to accessing Concur using the Quick Link need not worry! You can still easily access Concur from the home page. Visit the [Quick Links announcement](#) to learn how.

We would love to hear your feedback about this newsletter. Please contact us at: [internalcomms@epa.gov](mailto:internalcomms@epa.gov) | <http://intranet.epa.gov/internalcomms>  
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